

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for flexible installation of [[an]] optical patch cables in a telecommunication station between [[equipment in]] a plurality of systems housed in racks within the station, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of preinstalled micro ducts for guidance of the patch cables between ones of said plurality of systems, [[the]] each micro duct comprising a tube having first and second [[duct]] end openings [[related]] proximate to [[the equipment]] first and second ones of said plurality of systems to be coupled by a patch cable, [[the]] said end openings providing the only access to the pathway of each said tube and [[being]] adapted to receive the patch cable for insertion into and guidance through the micro duct without having direct access to the pathway of said tube along the length of each said micro duct.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in claim 7, further comprising:

means for feeding the patch cable through the duct;
means for adjusting the patch cable length between the equipment; and,
means for assembling a connector to at least one end of the patch cable.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein the duct comprises spliced duct parts.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein the duct comprises more than two end openings.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for flexible installation of [[an]] optical patch cables in a telecommunication station between [[equipment in]] a plurality of systems housed in racks within the station, said method comprising the steps of:

installing a plurality of micro ducts in the telecommunication station for guidance of the patch cables between ones of said plurality of systems, [[the duct being installed with duct end openings related to the equipment]] each micro duct comprising a tube having first and second end openings positioned proximate to first and second ones of said plurality of systems to be coupled by a patch cable, said end openings providing the only access to the pathway of each said tube and adapted to receive the patch cable for insertion into and guidance through the micro duct without having direct access to the pathway of said tube along the length of each said micro duct;

individually inserting a patch cable into [[the]] each of said plurality of micro ducts through one of the end openings;

individually feeding [[the]] each patch cable through [[the]] each duct and through another one of the end openings;

individually adjusting [[the]] each patch cable length between [[the equipment]] respective first and second ones of said plurality of systems; and,

assembling a connector to at least one end of [[the]] each patch cable.

12. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 11, wherein the duct is guided through a cabinet wall entrance in the telecommunication station.

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